TO THE
FREE AND INDEPENDENT ELECTORS
OF THE
COUNTY OF FRONTENAC.

GENTLEMEN:

Having received three several requisitions, signed by numerous electors, requesting me to come forward again as a candidate for your suffrages; and having received tenders of support from all parts of the County, I beg leave to offer myself to your notice, and confidently hope that my past conduct as your Representative has met with your approbation.

In again coming before you, I feel it my duty to state my views upon the important question which has led to the dissolution of the late Parliament, and the line of conduct I intend to pursue in the event of my being again elected to represent you. For my past conduct as your Member, I hold myself accountable, and hope to be able to satisfy you when I shall have the honor to meet you at the Hustings.

The Resolutions of the House of Assembly of 3d Sptember, 1841, acknowledge the principle of Responsible Government; or, in other words, that the Government shall be so conducted as to be in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the People, expressed through their Representatives in Parliament; and that the Chief Advisers of the Representative of the Sovereign ought to be men who possess the confidence of the Representatives of the People. The head of the Executive Government of the Province is responsible to the Imperial authority alone; but the management of our local affairs can only be conducted by him with the assistance and advice of the Executive Council. Having voted for these Resolutions, I need hardly say to you that I advocate the principle of Responsible Government. But the great question at issue between the Head of the Government and his late Advisers does not, in my humble judgment, arise out of any breach of the principle of Responsible Government; but from a desire on their part to conduct the Government on proscriptive and party principles, and to bestow the patronage of the Government not upon those whose merit or talents entitle their claims to favorable consideration, but upon those only who were their political supporters and partizans; and they further required His Excellency to stipulate with them that he would make no appointment unfavorable or prejudicial to their influence. The stand taken by His Excellency in regard to this question is manly, firm, and constitutional; and having thus recorded my vote in Parliament, I now come before you that you may have an opportunity of expressing your approval or disapproval of my conduct on that occasion.

The Governor of this Province must receive the advice and counsel of subordinate officers; but, as he is accountable to the Sovereign for his acts, and not to the people, he is at liberty to form opinions of his own, and ought not to surrender his judgment into the hands of his Council to be used by them for party purposes. The Government should be conducted on the principle of equal justice to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

Having always, to the best of my abilities, given my humble support to the agricultural and commercial interests of the country; and having, on two occasions, advocated the enactment of the law imposing a duty on American produce, thereby affording protection to our Farmers, I hope it is unnecessary for me again to assure them of my devotion to their interests. Should I again have the honor to represent them they will not find their confidence misplaced.

I had hoped that before the close of the late Parliament, some public work would have been commenced by which our long-neglected County might be benefitted; and more particularly as the Governor-General had already pledged his assistance upon any local matter tending to our prosperity. The opening of a Road to the Ottawa I trust will yet be accomplished. A Committee, of which I am a member, is now in communication with the Government on this subject. The survey of the country in rear of the settlement, will most likely be commenced immediately. Should a public Road be opened through the interior, I have no doubt the Government will give free grants of land to all those industrious settlers who may be inclined to locate themselves on the line of Road.

The new Election Law, by which you will have an opportunity of voting in your respective Townships, will no doubt prevent a great deal of that confusion which has heretofore occurred at Elections, and it is much to be regretted that the clause providing for the registration of votes had not been carried with the rest of the Bill.

There are many other matters upon which I hope to address you personally upon the day of the nomination. Until then, let our motto be—"Loyal hearts and Liberal measures."

Believe me, Gentlemen,

Your faithful and obliged Servant and Friend,

HENRY SMITH, JR.

[n.p. ca. 1841]

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